

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended): A method for breaking the viscosity of polymer gelled aqueous fluids comprising a crosslinked guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to break down the gel by acting on the crosslinker and primarily directly on the polymer gel, where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof; where the method is conducted at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280°F (138°C) and in the absence of an oxidizer effective to break viscosity within this temperature range.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (original): The method of claim 1 where the polymer is a polysaccharide.

5. (canceled)

6. (original): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

7. (canceled)

8. (original): The method of claim 1 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

9. (currently amended): A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a crosslinked guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to break down the gel by acting on the crosslinker and primarily directly on the polymer gel, where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and salts thereof at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 220°F (104°C), propylenediaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA) and salts thereof at a temperature between about 140°F (60°C) and about 230°F (110°C), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA) and salts thereof at a temperature between about 190°F (88°C) and about 280° F (138°C), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280°F (138°C), and mixtures thereof, and where the method is conducted ~~at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280° F (138°C) in the absence of an oxidizer effective to break viscosity within the temperature ranges.~~

10. (canceled)

11. (original): The method of claim 9 where the polymer is a polysaccharide.

12. (original): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

13. (original): The method of claim 9 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

14-22. (canceled)

23. (new): The method of claim 1 in the absence of an enzyme to break viscosity within the temperature range.

24. (new): The method of claim 9 in the absence of an enzyme to break viscosity within the temperature ranges.

25. (new): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of NTA, HEDTA, H₂EDDA, 2H₂O EDTA, salts of these acids, and the temperature ranges between about 150°F (66°C) and about 260° F (127°C).

26. (new): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of EDTA and salts thereof at a temperature between about 130°F (54°C) and about 200° F (93°C), PDTA and salts thereof at a temperature between about 150°F (66°C) and about 210° F (99°C), HEDTA and salts thereof at a temperature between about 190°F (88°C) and about 240° F (116°C), NTA, HEDTA, H₂EDDA, 2H₂O EDTA, salts of these acids, and the temperature ranges between about 150°F (66°C) and about 260° F (127°C).

27. (new): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of PDTA, HEDTA, HEDTA, H₂EDDA, salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.

28. (new): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of PDTA, HEDTA, HEDTA, H₂EDDA, salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.